

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name John D. Bush House  
other names/site number N/A

**2. Location**

street & number 219 N. Kilworth N/A not for publication  
city, towns/site number Exira N/A vicinity  
state Iowa code IA county Audubon code 009 zip code 50076

**3. Classification**

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	1	0
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		
		1	0
			Total

Name of related multiple property listing: See continuation sheet  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

David C. [Signature] 8/13/91  
Signature of certifying official Date

State Historical Society of Iowa

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed for the National Register.  
 other, (explain:)

Bob Boland 10/3/91

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

Materials

Other: Gabled Ell House Type

foundation brick

walls wood/weatherboard

roof asphalt

other glass

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The John D. Bush House is situated on an open lot 104 feet west of North Kilworth Avenue in the Audubon County town of Exira. The frame building rises two stories from a brick foundation and is clad with lapped boards. The dwelling has an L-shaped ground plan, and the intersecting gabled roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. A brick chimney with a corbelled cap rises from the slope of the side gabled ell. Facade fenestration is asymmetrical, with the formal entry located in the facade of the side gabled ell. The side gabled ell has three bays on the first floor consisting of a door flanked by single windows and two bays on the second floor consisting of a window to the left and a door to the right. A second entry is situated on the south side of the front gabled ell and opening to the south perpendicular to the east-facing entry. The east facade of the front gabled ell has two bays consisting of two single windows on both floors. The house has a wide friezeboard under boxed eaves and plain cornerboards. The windows have flat, molded lintel boards and are the original 6/6 double-hung windows. The windows also have black-painted shutters which were added within the past nine years but are similar to the originals. The door on the front second floor appears to be original and has paired round-arched panes of clear glass. The doors on the first floor are twentieth century replacements. A two-story open porch is present on the east facade of the side gabled ell. Except for the floor of the porch and the base of the posts, this porch is original and has chamfered posts and a distinctive lattice-work type rail on the second floor.

The interior of the house has been extensively remodeled, with the open stair rail being one of the few original components that remains intact. Other modifications to the exterior of the dwelling are the addition of an open, shed-roofed deck to the north side entrance since 1982; the enclosure of a door on the north side prior to 1982; the cutting of a new door opening on the north side since 1982; the removal of a summer kitchen off the northwest corner and the infilling of a second floor door on the rear as a result; the modification of the kitchen window on the rear; and the modification and replacement of the south-facing door on the front. Otherwise, the wall cladding, window and door surrounds, and the majority of the windows themselves are the originals. None of the modifications are highly visible from the street, and the house appears on the exterior almost exactly as it did in an 1875 illustration of the property in the state atlas (Andreas 1875) (see attachment).

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

	<u>  </u> nationally	<u>  </u> statewide	<u>X</u> locally	
Applicable National Register Criteria	<u>  </u> A	<u>  </u> B	<u>X</u> C	<u>  </u> D
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	<u>  </u> A	<u>  </u> B	<u>  </u> C	<u>  </u> D <u>  </u> E <u>  </u> F <u>  </u> G
Areas of Significance	Period of Significance		Significant Dates	
<u>ETHNIC HERITAGE/European</u>	<u>c. 1873</u>		<u>c. 1873</u>	
<u>ARCHITECTURE</u>	_____		_____	
_____	_____		_____	
_____	_____		_____	
_____	_____		_____	
_____	_____		_____	
_____	_____		_____	
Significant Person	Architect/Builder			
<u>N/A</u>	<u>Hansen, Jens Uriah</u>			
_____	_____			

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The John D. Bush House is locally significant under National Register Criterion C within the multiple property historic contexts of Danish Immigrant Settlement, 1865-1924; Construction Trades and Industries and Building Trends because it was built by Danish immigrant carpenter Jens Uriah Hansen, who was the first Dane to settle in Audubon County and was responsible for the construction of a number of the early buildings, homes, and outbuildings in the Exira area. Of all the documented buildings that Jens Uriah Hansen built, the Bush house is the only one to retain such a high degree of structural integrity. As such, it is the best representation of Hansen's carpentry skills and is among the best examples of early Danish immigrant-influenced dwellings in the two county area. The dwellings that Hansen constructed were typified by simple, well-executed designs lacking in the elaborate exterior decorative embellishments which typified the houses built by Danish carpenters in the 1890s-1910s. Furthermore, while the house style does not reflect a Danish style of architecture, the simplicity of its design is typical of the early gabled frame houses built by and for the Danish immigrants who settled in Shelby and Audubon counties in the 1870s-1890s. The period of significance of the nominated property is the estimated date of construction, c. 1873.

Hansen was born in Lourup, Slesvig, Denmark, and was trained in that country as a carpenter and journeyman miller. His father and grandfather had also been carpenters. He immigrated to the United States in 1866 settling in Audubon County in 1869. One of his first carpentry jobs was the 1870-71 construction of the Congregational Church in Exira, the first church building in the county. Among the houses he built in Exira was the nominated property which he built c. 1873 for John D. Bush who was born in Massachusetts and settled in Exira in the 1860s. Bush established one of the early general stores in this community and served as postmaster. The house was located on what was then the outskirts of the town, and was part of a larger holding for Bush's stock farm as noted in the 1875 atlas. The town later expanded to the north and now encompasses the Bush property well within its residential boundaries. Through the years the property has been subdivided and sold off, until the large lot on which the house is situated is all that remains intact of the original Bush holdings.

The exact date of construction is not known from available data; however, John D. Bush first purchased this lot on February 25, 1873. It is likely that the house was constructed in the spring or summer of that year. It is known that

XSee continuation sheet

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Andreas, A. T. Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Iowa: Eighth Congressional District. Chicago: Andreas Atlas Company, 1875.

Andrews, H. F., editor. History of Audubon County. Indianapolis: B. F. Bowen and Company, 1915.

Wood, Gladys H. Excerpts from Diary of Jens Uriah Hansen. Exira: Audubon County Historical Society Museum, 1967.

Land Transfer and Assessor Records, Audubon, Iowa: County Courthouse.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

<input type="checkbox"/> preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested	<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> previously listed in the National Register	Primary location of additional data:
<input type="checkbox"/> previously determined eligible by the National Register	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State historic preservation office
<input type="checkbox"/> designated a National Historic Landmark	<input type="checkbox"/> Other State agency
<input type="checkbox"/> recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal agency
<input type="checkbox"/> recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Local government
	<input type="checkbox"/> University
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
	Specify repository:
	<input type="checkbox"/> Bureau of Historic Preservation

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of property Less than one acre

### UTM References

A	<u>15</u>	<u>343700</u>	<u>4606180</u>	B	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____	_____

See continuation sheet

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### Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is bounded by the legal description as recorded in the Audubon County Recorder's Office: Part of Lot 14, Subdivision of Original Lot 9, Town of Exira, Section 4, T78N, R35W.

See continuation sheet

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### Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property is the remnant of the original parcel historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title	<u>Leah Rogers, Project Director</u>	date	<u>June 30, 1991</u>
organization	<u>Preservation Partnership Phase III</u>	telephone	<u>319-849-1271</u>
street & number	<u>520 Franklin</u>	state	<u>Iowa</u>
city or town	<u>Center Point</u>	zip code	<u>52213</u>

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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**Name of related multiple property listing:**

The Ethnic Historic Settlement of Shelby and Audubon Counties: 1860-1941

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

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the house was standing by 1875 when it was illustrated in the state atlas. The house remained in the Bush family's possession until 1935 when it was sold out of the family. During the 1930s, the dwelling was used as a boarding house for five families, making its current state of preservation even more remarkable. The present owners have lived in this house for nine years and have taken great pains to preserve and protect this building. They are very cognizant of its historical value and have tried to retain as much of the original exterior elements as possible.

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John D. Bush House  
Exira, Iowa  
Leah Rogers, Photographer  
Original negatives, Iowa Bureau of Historic Preservation

<u>Photo #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Photo #</u>	<u>Description</u>
#1	House from street 2/20/91 view to W		
2	House 2/20/91 view to WNW		
3	House (rear) 2/20/91 view to NE		
4	House (rear) 2/20/91 view to SE		

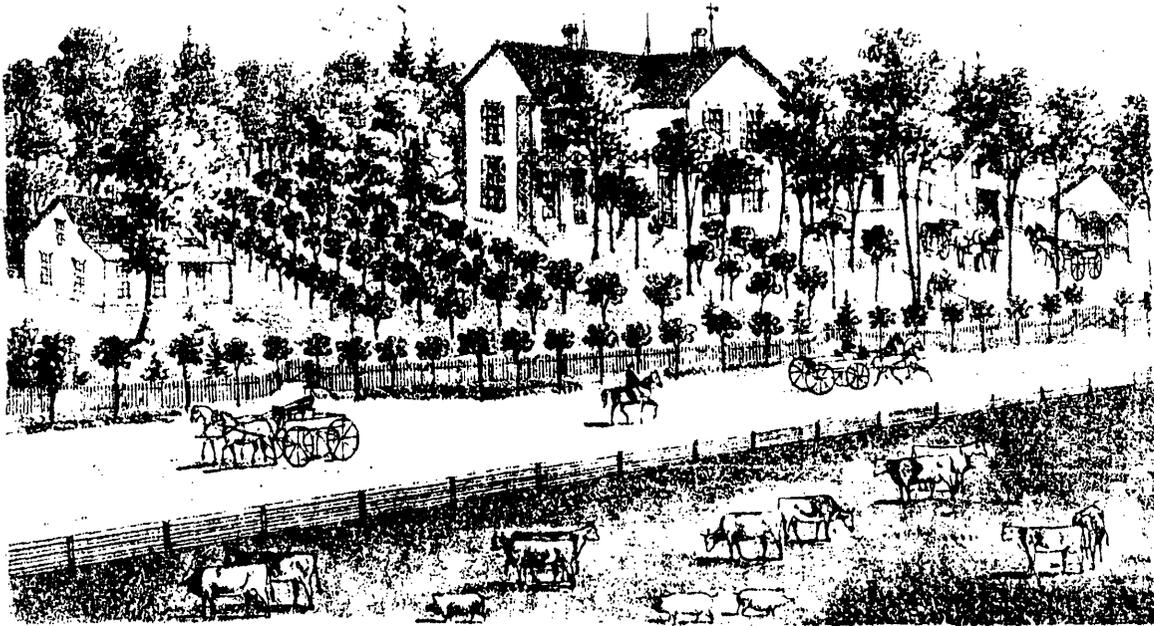
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John D. Bush House  
Exira, Iowa  
Drawing of House from Andreas 1875



RESIDENCE OF STOCK FARM OF JOHN D. BUSH, EXIRA, Audubon Co. Iowa.

United States Department of the Interior  
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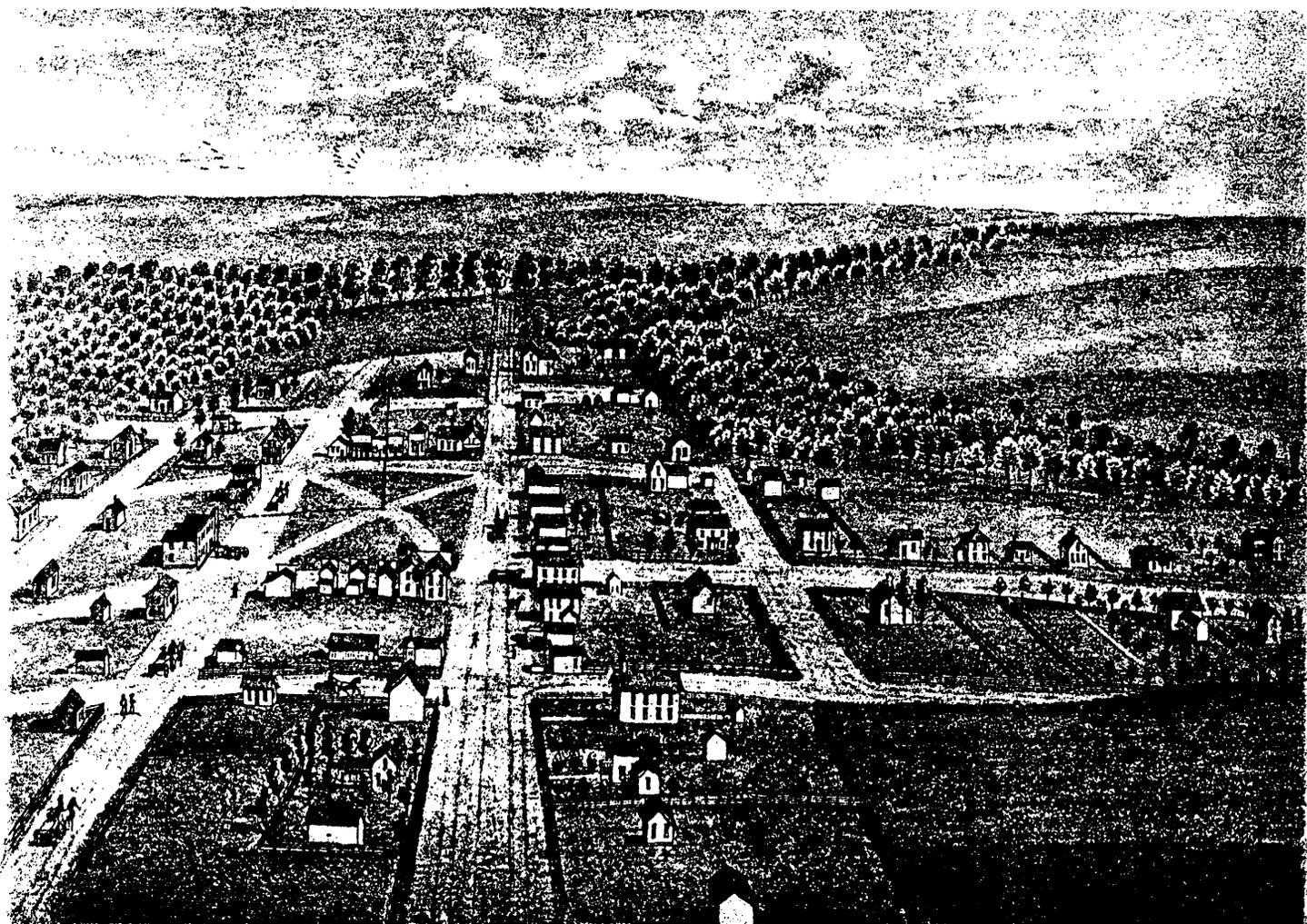
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Section number Drawing Page 2

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John D. Bush House  
Exira, Iowa

Drawing of Exira from Andreas 1875 Showing Bush House at Extreme Right Side



BIRDS EYE VIEW (FROM EAST) OF **EXIRA**, AUDUBON COUNTY, IOWA.